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The scope of work for this purchase order will be for the NOAA Auke Bay Laboratory to perform detailed chemical analyses for the presence and speciation of organotin compounds. At present, EPA's Manchester Laboratory is not fully equipped and geared up to perform this type of analysis. This work will be performed on six (6) samples of sediment obtained in the course of EPA Region 10's Marine Power and Equipment investigation(s). Three of the samples are sediment from the Lake Union facility of Marine Power and Equipment, and three are from their facility on the lower Duwamish River. Each of the six samples is a composite of three subsamples taken by VanVeen grab sampler. All samples were taken specifically for organotin analysis, and have been maintained in frozen condition at the EPA Manchester Laboratory since their collection earlier this year. It is our understanding that this analysis will provide accurate information about the type and quantities of various organotin compounds which may be present in the samples, and the cost will be approximately \$125 per sample.

M/S 329

Possibility of Analyzing Organo-Tin at NOAA's Auke Ray Laboratory

Michael Watson, Regional Toxicologist Field Operations & Technical Support Branch

William P. Schmidt, Chief, Field Operations and Technical Support Pranch

On 7 January, 1987, I telephoned NOAA's Auke Bay Laboratory near Juneau, Alaska, and discussed the general issue of organotins in fish tissue and sediment samples with Dr. Jeff Short. Telephone for Dr. Short is (907) 789-6065. Dr. Short and Dr. Frank Thrower of the Auke Bay lab have recently published a paper entitled "Accumulation of butyltins in muscle tissue of chinock salmon reared in sea pens treated with tri-n-butyltin". This paper was presented at the IEEE OCEANS '86 Conference in Washington, D.C., September 23-25, 1986. They are also preparing an upcoming paper on a screening method for organotins in fish muscle. Dr. Short related the following very interesting facts:

- 1. The equipment and instrumentation necessary to accurately analyze organotins has cost the Auke Bay lab in the vicinity of 80-90 thousand dollars. This is because the lab uses a procedure which involves "mating" an atomic absorption (AA) detector with a gas chromatograph (GC). This union took them about eight months to successfully design and implement, because a certain amount of trial and error is required to compliment the undeniable skill required for the splicing. The concept for using the AA/GC combination was originated by Dr. Jim McGuire of Environment Canada, who pioneered Canada's efforts at analyzing organotins in marine samples. Dr. Short feels that the AA/GC method, despite its difficulties, is the best method by far, although one could also use a flame photometric detector with the GC instead of utilizing AA as the detector.
- 2. The best source of information regarding state-of-the-art extraction and analysis methods for organotins is Volume 4 of the Proceedings from the OCEANS '86 conference referenced above. I would recommend that the Region 10 laboratory acquire this volume for future references. Other pioneers in the field of organotin analysis in marine samples include: (a) Dr. Ed D. Goldberg, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA 92043, telephone ((619) 534-2407, and (b) Dr. Robert J. Huggett, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, Gloucester Pt., VA 23062, telephone (804) 642-7236.

- 3. The Auke Bay laboratory has recently sampled the common mussel, Mytilus edulus, from several locations along the Pacific coast, including several sites in Puget Sound. According to Dr. Short, mussels from Puget Sound (especially from the area around the Duwamish) contain significantly high levels of organotin. These samples are currently being analyzed, and the study is not yet completed. He will send me the data when they become available.
- 4. (saving the best news for last) The Auke Bay laboratory is interested in any contractual arrangements which EPA or others may wish to consider regarding analysis of marine samples for brganotins. Two levels of analysis are available. For \$25 per sample, we would receive a screening analysis which will tell us whether or not organically bound tin is present, and a rough estimate of quantity. For about \$125 per sample, the lab will provide us with an AA/GC confirmation of each species of organotin present, with much greater quantitative accuracy. He suggests that samples be screened first with the cheaper method, and any positive samples then be analyzed in greater detail by the AA/GC method. I should also mention that NOAA is apparently cutting back funding for most of their laboratories. Facilities such as Auke Bay, Montlake and similar labs are thus very interested in soliciting outside funding via contractual arrangements.

I suggest that someone from our laboratory contact Dr. Short and explore mutual interests. If tributyl tin samples (Marine Power sediments, edible resource monitoring in Puget Sound, etc.) could be contracted out on a very limited initial basis, it would give us time to better explore the feasibility of gearing up internally for this complex analytical method over the long run.

cc: Mike Johnston Bob Rieck Roy Arp Kathy Krueger Dave Terpening Steve Brown Dave Tetta Dave Heineck

JEKKRAY W Short NW+AK Ashanes Ceases AUKE BAY LANG NM 65, NOAA PO BOX 210155 · DURE BM, AK 99821

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